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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

together with the

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1951

ROGER & RENNICK,
PRINTERS, WIGAN.



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STANDISH-WITH-LANGTREE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL :

Councillor P. REID, J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL :

Councillor A. THOMPSON

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL :

Councillor B. BOULT	Councillor F. T. PAGETT
Councillor R. CARRINGTON	Councillor B. PARK
Councillor H. CARTER	Councillor R. F. REYNOLDS
Councillor J. FINNEY	Councillor W. N. TABERNER
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Councillor S. MASON, J.P.	

CHAIRMAN OF THE HEALTH, SANITATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE :

Councillor W. N. TABERNER

VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE HEALTH, SANITATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE :

Councillor E. GARNER

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL :

D. CHISHOLM, Esq.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND PUBLIC CLEANSING OFFICER :

B. L. PARKER, A.R.San. I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council

July, 1952.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report upon the health of Standish for the year 1951.

As in previous years it has been compiled in the manner indicated by the Ministry of Health Circular.

I wish to thank you for the ~~very~~ kind interest taken in the matters affecting the health and sanitation of the Urban District. I would also like to extend my thanks to Mr. B. L. Parker and other members of the staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Estimated mid-year (1951) home population	8,922
Acreage of District	3,266
Number of inhabited houses	2,718
Rateable value	£46,682
Product of a penny rate	£180

VITAL STATISTICS

The statistics are shewn comparatively in respect of the years 1946 to 1951. By the inclusion of actual numbers as well as rates it is felt that a better comparison of statistics is provided than that used in previous years.

BIRTHS.

Live Births

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number registered</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 population</i>
1951.....	119.....	13.3
1950.....	129.....	14.4
1949.....	128.....	14.2
1948.....	127.....	14.2
1947.....	198.....	22.8
1946.....	145.....	17.0
Average 5 years 1946—1950 —.....		16.5

An analysis of the 119 live births shews there were 112 legitimate, made up of 51 Males and 61 Females, and 7 illegitimate, made up of 1 Male and 6 Females.

The live birth-rate for England and Wales was 15.5 per 1,000 of estimated home population.

Still Births

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number registered</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births</i>
1951.....	2.....	17
1950.....	2.....	15
1949.....	2.....	15
1948.....	2.....	15
1947.....	8.....	38
1946.....	4.....	26
Average 5 years 1946—1950 —.....		24

An analysis of the two stillbirths shews they were legitimate and both females.

The stillbirth rate for England and Wales was 36 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

DEATHS.

Deaths (all causes)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number registered</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 population</i>
1951.....	133.....	14.9
1950.....	103.....	11.5
1949.....	113.....	12.6
1948.....	92.....	10.3
1947.....	116.....	13.3
1946.....	101.....	11.8
Average 5 years 1946—1950 —.....		11.9

An analysis of the 133 deaths shews there were 57 Males and 76 Females.

The death rate for England and Wales was 12.5 per 1,000 of estimated home population.

Maternal Mortality.

There were no deaths from puerperal causes during the year, consequently the maternal mortality for 1951 was Nil.

Infant Mortality (deaths of infants under 1 year of age).

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of deaths registered</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 live births</i>
1951.....	6.....	50
1950.....	6.....	47
1949.....	6.....	47
1948.....	5.....	39
1947.....	9.....	45
1946.....	2.....	13
Average 5 years 1946—1950 —.....		39

An analysis of the 6 deaths shews there were 4 Males and 2 Females—all legitimate.

The infant mortality rate for England and Wales was 29.6 per 1,000 live births.

Neo-Natal Mortality (deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age).

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of deaths registered</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 live births</i>
1951.....	4.....	34
1950.....	5.....	39

An analysis of the 4 deaths shews there were 3 Males and 1 Female—all legitimate.

CANCER : Nineteen deaths occurred in 1951—10 Males and 9 Females—compared with 11 deaths—4 Males and 7 Females—in 1950.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES:—	M.		F.
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	I	...	I
Whooping Cough	—	...	I
Malignant neoplasm (stomach)	I	...	—
Malignant neoplasm (lung-bronchus)	2	...	—
Malignant neoplasm (breast)	—	...	2
Malignant neoplasm (uterus)	—	...	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	...	4
Lukaemia — aleukaemia	—	...	4
Diabetes	—	...	I
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	...	I3
Coronary disease — angina	6	...	6
Hypertension with heart disease	I	...	3
Other heart disease	I3	...	I6
Influenza	4	...	6
Pneumonia	2	...	2
Bronchitis	5	...	I
Other diseases of respiratory system	I	...	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	I	...	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	...	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	...	8
Motor vehicle accidents	I	...	—
All other accidents	—	...	2
	<hr/>		
Total, all causes ...	57	...	76

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens are sent to the Bacteriological Department of the Wigan Infirmary for examination. Use is also made of the facilities of the Public Health Laboratory Service at Manchester and Liverpool. These arrangements have proved quite satisfactory.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The duty of providing an Ambulance Service devolves upon the Lancashire County Council as the Local Authority under the National Health Service Act. At the present time the Ambulance Service for Standish is provided by Wigan County Borough Council under an agency agreement with the Lancashire County Council. The service is quite satisfactory.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

One hundred and eighty-six cases of Infectious Disease were notified to the Department during the year compared with 68 during 1950.

Perusal of the accompanying table will shew the incidence of the various diseases and the age groups affected.

There was an epidemic of 158 cases of Measles during the first quarter of the year, occurring in children of 5 years and under. There were few cases of other diseases.

There were no cases of Food Poisoning notified during the year.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Particulars of the numbers of pre-school and school-children who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation during the year are:—

Pre-school children :	109.	School-children :	21
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In addition 100 children were given a secondary or reinforcing injection.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1951

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED AGE PERIODS — YEARS										Total Deaths	Hospital admissions
		0	1	3	5	10	15	25	45	65 and over	age unknown		
Scarlet Fever	6	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Whooping Cough	13	—	3	3	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Measles (excl. Rubella) 158	4	31	59	60	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Acute pneumonia (primary & influenzal) 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	1	—
Dysentery	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Totals	186	4	34	67	68	4	—	4	2	3	—	1	5

TUBERCULOSIS

The following notifications were received under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1951

		New Cases				Deaths				
Age Periods		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		
Years		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
1	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
2	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
5	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
10	...	—	—	I	—	...	—	—	—	—
15	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
20	...	—	I	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
25	...	I	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
35	...	—	I	—	I	...	—	—	—	—
45	...	—	—	—	—	...	I	I	—	—
55	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
65	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
75 and upwards		—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—
Totals		I	2	I	I	...	I	I	—	—

All cases were notified before death.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was taken under Section 47 of this Act during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The Council have their own plant (Bell's Mechanical Filters) situated at Green Lane for filtering and chlorinating the water supply.

During the year the filtration capacity of the plant was increased by installing one additional Bell's Mechanical Filter together with the incidental replacement of electrically operated centrifugal pumps and the replacement of the p H correction lime plant.

The water for domestic and trade purposes comes from the reservoir at Anglezarke and is purchased from Liverpool Corporation. A special industrial supply comes from Thirlmere and is purchased from Manchester Corporation.

Before distribution in the district the domestic water supply receives the following treatment:—

Addition of chemicals: Alumina—1 gr. per gallon.
Soda Ash—1 gr. per gallon.

Filtration and chlorination.

The special industrial supply is distributed without treatment. Both domestic and industrial supplies are constant.

The water is of good soft Upland Surface Water in every way well suited for drinking and all domestic purposes.

All houses in the district are supplied from public water mains direct to houses.

Water Sampling : The following samples were taken during the year, the results of which are tabulated below :—

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS :—

	UNTREATED WATER					FULLY TREATED WATER			
	Jan.	May	July	Oct.		Jan.	May	July	Oct.
Bacteria per C.C. at 37 deg.C.	29	3	Nil	38	...	Nil	2	Nil	Nil
Bacteria per C.C. at 22 deg. C.	205	3	7	47	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
B. Coli per 100 C.C.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total Coliform Organisms per 100 C.C.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Class	1	1	1	1	...	1	1	1	1

Class 1 : Highly Satisfactory. Class 2 : Satisfactory. Class 3 : Suspicious.
Class 4 : Unsatisfactory.

CHEMICAL ANALYSES (Results — Parts/Million) FULLY TREATED WATER.

	Jan.	May	July	Oct.
Total solid matter in solution	76.0	107.2	84.8	80.8
Oxygen required to oxidise in 15 minutes	0.12	0.68	0.06	0.23
Oxygen required to oxidise in 4 hours	0.50	1.72	0.21	0.50
Ammoniacal Nitrogen as N.	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen as N.	0.01	0.05	0.01	0.03
Nitrous Nitrogen as N.	None	None	None	None
	minute	minute	minute	minute
Nitric Nitrogen as N.	trace	trace	trace	trace
Combined chlorine	11.0	12.0	12.5	12.3
Total Hardness	34	34	42	41
p H value	7.5	6.7	7.6	7.3

The water supply is consistently reported upon as a good soft upland surface water, free from organic pollution and in every way quite fit for drinking and domestic purposes.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Mr. B. L. Parker, Sanitary Inspector and Public Cleansing Officer, has kindly contributed the following report:—

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Butchers' Shops	26	Septic Tanks and Cesspools	21
Bakehouses	7	Conservancy Closets	8
Fish and Chip Shops	4	Refuse Disposal Sites	38
Ice-Cream Vendors	32	Re : Dustbins	226
Cafe and Canteens	10	Pigsties	8
Public Houses	18	Housing Acts	74
Other Food Premises	86	Overcrowding	3
Dairies	2	Re : Housing Applications	21
Milk Distributors	33	Moveable Dwellings	9
Hawkers	16	Infectious Disease Enquiries	13
Factories (Mech.)	24	Interviews with Owners, etc. ...	109
Factories (Non-Mech.)	32	Re-inspections of Notices	130
P.H.A. Workplaces	12	Rodent Control	286
Shops under Shops Act	280	Public Halls and Cinemas	1
Investigation of Complaints	95	Atmospheric Pollution	1
Inspection and Tests Drainage ...	194	Water Supplies	10
School Sanitary Accommodation	1	Various Causes	150

Total Number of Inspections — 1,980

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES

<i>Description</i>	<i>No. discovered</i>	<i>No. abated</i>
Defective windows	148	133
Damp-defective and perished wall plaster ...	82	77
Defective or obstructed drainage systems	65	63
Defective eavesgutters	54	48
Defective brickwork (external walls)	48	47
Defective chimney stacks and flues	39	38
Defective roofs	37	33
Defective doors and frames	60	51
Defective ceilings	21	19
Defective watercloset structures	20	17
Defective water closet appliances	13	13
Defective refuse receptacles	17	17
Defective rainwater pipes	13	13
Defective floors	12	11
Defective sinks	12	12
Defective firegrates	10	9
Dangerous boundary walls	7	7
Defective approach paths and yards	7	7
Offensive odours or accumulations	5	5
Defective washing boilers	4	4
Defective pail closet structures	2	2

<i>Description</i>	<i>No. discovered</i>	<i>No. abated</i>
Defective pail closet receptacles	2	2
Defective domestic hot water systems	3	3
Defective cold water service pipes	2	2
Flooding of approach paths and yards	2	2
Defective handrail to stairs	1	1
Inadequate lighting and ventilation	1	1
Inadequate drainage	1	1
Defective gas fittings	1	1
Obstructed watercourses	1	1
Flooded sub-floor spaces	1	1
Cockroach infestation	1	1
General defects	3	3

Defects or Nuisances: No. Discovered 695; No. Abated, 645.

No. of Notices Served : Informal, 117; Statutory, 1.

Legal Proceedings : Nil.

It will be observed from the foregoing statistics that a continuous inspection of the district is maintained in an endeavour to improve the sanitary circumstances and safeguard the public health.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Except for the following all premises in the district have water closets :—

Privy Middens	10 (mostly on farms)
Pail Closets (including chemical closets)	62
	(including 21 houses at Gidlow).
Waste Water Closets	2

During the year one privy midden was converted to a pail closet and one pail closet was converted to a water closet.

At the end of the year a scheme for sewerage the 21 houses at Gidlow into Wigan Corporation's sewerage system was proceeding in order to make possible the conversion of the 21 pail closets to water closets.

Not many of the remaining conservancy closets can be converted to the water carriage system owing to the absence of drainage facilities and the present-day cost of installing small individual sewage disposal plant being prohibitive.

HOUSING.

STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

Traditional Permanent Houses—

(i) By the Local Authority	22
(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(iii) By other Bodies or Persons	2

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	179
(b)	Number of inspections formal or informal made for the purpose	310
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	178

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices : Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers

172

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit :—	
(a)	By owners	Nil
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1)	Number of dwelling -houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
	(a) By owners 1
	(b) By local authority in default of owners Nil
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 — Part IV — Overcrowding :—

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 6
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 7
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 43
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 6
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 4
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 28

5. Housing Act, 1949 :—

	Schemes of private bodies or individ'ls	Schemes of local authority
(a) (i) Number of Schemes submitted :—		
(a) by private individuals to local authority	Nil ...	—
(b) by the local authority to Ministry	Nil ...	Nil
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	Nil ...	Nil
(b) (i) Number of Schemes approved by Ministry	Nil ...	Nil
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	Nil ...	Nil
(iii) Number of additional separate dwel- lings to be provided under these ap- proved Schemes	Nil ...	Nil
(c) Number of additional separate dwel- lings actually completed during the year	Nil ...	Nil
(d) Any other action taken (give brief particulars). The scheme reported as under consideration at the end of 1950 was subsequently withdrawn during 1951.		

HOUSING : This important sphere of environmental health work demanded a great deal of time and attention which resulted in improvements in the housing conditions of many families. The repair of houses during the year was not accomplished without difficulty. The scarcity of some essential materials and the economic difficulties of some property owners and the bad workmanship of some builders together hindered the progress of housing repair work.

Much has been done during the past few years, and, given the co-operative attitude of owners and agents of house property, it is hoped that much more will be achieved.

The improvement of old property was accomplished by private persons at No. 2, Upper Wood Folds, and No. 125, Grove Lane, following which the Council cancelled the undertakings given by former owners not to use the premises for human habitation.

The acute shortage of dwelling-houses continues although the Council has done all in its power to build as rapidly as possible.

The district being seriously affected by active mining subsidence has made more difficult the work of acquiring safe and suitable building sites.

At the end of the year there were 310 applicants for Council housing accommodation and investigation into the circumstances of a number of applications was made and reports prepared for the guidance of the Committee in its endeavours to ensure that applicants with the greatest housing need are re-housed.

DISINFESTATION

The following premises were disinfested during the year for the reasons stated :—

Cockroach infestation	2 whole houses
House-flies	1 whole house

Spraying and dusting with D.D.T. solution and powder proved to be highly effective.

DISINFECTION

The following premises were disinfected during the year for the reasons stated:—

After Tuberculosis	1 whole house and 2 rooms
After Scarlet Fever	1 room
After Cerebro-spinal fever	1 room

Formaldehyde was used for the purpose.

A standing arrangement exists whereby the steam disinfector at Whelley Infectious Disease Hospital could be used for the disinfection of articles requiring the application of steam.

RODENT CONTROL

One trained part-time operator is employed on rodent control work. In addition to search work for rodents the following premises were treated for infestations :—

	Rats	Mice	Total
L.A. Properties	5	2	7
Dwelling-houses	24	7	31
Business Premises	8	5	13
Agricultural Property	9	—	9

The sewers and sewage disposal works were also systematically treated as were the refuse disposal sites. Rodent control work is carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector in strict conformity with the methods advised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. No charge is made for the disinfection of private dwelling-houses, but business premises are charged for treatments. No legal proceedings were taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act during the year. Regular attendances were made at the Workable Area Committee No. 13, and the fullest co-operative working with Contiguous Local Authorities, the Railway Executive and the County Agricultural Executive Committee exists.

KEEPING OF ANIMALS

A variable number of pigsties was in use during the year mostly in connection with Self Suppliers of Pigs Scheme—Domestic Pig Keepers. All are of a reasonable standard of construction and no action by this department was necessary.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The need for new and adequate public conveniences planned on modern lines for both sexes still exists. The holiday season with its almost continuous stream of traffic through the district more than emphasises the urgency of this need. The Council have, however, definite plans in being for new public conveniences.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Continuous pollution takes place from both public and private sewage disposal plant. Efforts have been and are being made to reduce the pollution from private premises, and, in this connection, the sewage disposal plant serving the six houses, 213 to 223, Preston Road, was thoroughly cleansed and renovated during the year and a scheme to abolish the small inefficient sewage disposal plant to the six houses, 101 to 111, Chorley Road, and connect them to the Council's sewerage system is in preparation. The cleansing of other individual septic tanks was carried out by the Council at the owner's expense. The pollution from the public sewage disposal plant can only be mitigated by the provision of new and extended works now envisaged.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Standish has a water carriage system to which most houses in the district are connected.

The Local Authority maintains two sewage disposal works— at Arbour Lane and Chorley Road — and two sewage farms — at Fairhurst House and Langtree. Three of these are grossly overloaded and cannot deal efficiently with the increased influx of recent years. Extensive repairs to the works are also required.

A scheme for the improvement of the sewerage and sewage disposal systems was in an advanced state of preparation at the outbreak of war. Further consideration is now being given to this although progress is delayed by uncertainty as to the areas of future development due to the district being seriously affected throughout by active mining subsidence.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

A Licence to erect or station and use a Movable Dwelling has been issued in respect of one trailer-type caravan at Giants Hall Farm. No site licences have been issued.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

General observations of works chimneys were made during the year. Pollution of the atmosphere from manufactory and domestic chimneys takes place.

There are 9 factory and works chimneys within the Urban District, but no Byelaw is in force concerning emissions therefrom.

SWIMMING BATHS AND BATHING POOLS

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools open to the public in the district.

SHOPS ADMINISTRATION

There are 136 shops of various kinds within the Urban District. Assistants are employed in 31 shops and young persons in 12 of this number. Business was discontinued at 5 premises during the year.

During the year 280 shops inspections were made and any offences were dealt with satisfactorily by informal action.

The Sanitary Inspector is delegated Inspector of Shops by the Lancashire County Council as regards certain provisions enforceable by that Authority.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Number and particulars of Factories on Register at 31st December, 1951, as per Ministry of Labour and National Service Form 572 (revised).

Factories (Mech.)	19
Factories (Non-Mech.)	4
Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction ...	2
Number of Inspections made	56
Number of cases in which defects were found	Nil
Number of cases in which defects were remedied	Nil
Number of written notices served	Nil

There are no out-workers within the Urban District. There is a number of workplaces coming within the provisions of Section 46 of the P.H.A. 1936 within the district.

LICENSED PREMISES

Details of Licensed Premises within the district are:—

Public Houses	13	Cinemas	1
---------------------	----	---------------	---

Systematic inspections are made of the sanitary accommodation at these premises and reports are prepared and submitted to the General Annual Licensing Meeting of the Justices when considering the granting or renewal of licences under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910, and it is pleasing to record that in this matter full co-operation exists between the Licensing Justices and the Council. By this means considerable structural improvements to sanitary accommodation were effected at several of the licensed premises during the year.

A Hygiene Code of Practice for public houses which, inter alia, directs particular attention to the cleansing and sterilising of glasses, abolition of lead and other unsuitable beer piping and pumps, cleansing of beer piping and pumps, disposal of drippings and overspill beer and the abolition of spittoons has been formulated and addressed to owners and licensees of all public houses and secretaries and stewards of all clubs within the Urban District by whom it has been well received.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

A total of 234 inspections of food premises and distributors' vehicles of all kinds was made during the year and every opportunity of advising food handlers on matters of hygiene was used to advantage.

The publicity already given to food hygiene was continued during the year. The two Ministry of Health sponsored films, "Another Case of Poisoning" and "Fly About the House," were shewn at the local cinema during February and educational leaflets on food hygiene were prepared and distributed to all food traders in the district. In accordance with Ministry of Food Circular 20/51 a notice re : Dogs in Food Shops, Restaurants, etc., as therein prescribed was sent to all food traders within the Urban District by whom it was well received and displayed.

Contraventions of food laws were revealed from time to time but were remedied without resort to Statutory action.

All slaughtering of animals for human food continues to be carried out under Government control at Wigan and meat distribution takes place from there.

Twenty-three pig carcasses and organs were inspected under the Self-Suppliers of Pigs Scheme—Domestic Pig Keepers—and localised tuberculosis in three pigs was the only abnormality found.

Six samples of ice-cream and twelve samples of water-ice were procured during the year shewing Provisional Methylene Blue Gradings as follows :—

Ice-Cream : 3 samples Grade I and 3 samples Grade II.

Water-ice : 12 samples Grade I.

There are no manufacturers of ice-cream within the Urban District.

Copies of the Lancashire County Council Ice-Cream Codes of Practice have been circulated to all concerned in the ice-cream trade.

Copies of the Ministry of Food Model Byelaws: Series I, which have been adopted by the Council and came into operation on the 25th June, 1951, have been distributed free of charge to all food traders in the district. These new byelaws can only be properly implemented by regularly visiting and inspecting all places where food is destined for human consumption, a task involving so much attention to detail, makes heavy demands on an officer's time and ability.

The following foods were inspected and voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption.

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Canned tomato pulp (various brands)	72	0	0	0	0
Canned boiled ham (various brands)		2	3	0	10
Pigs' head and organs (3 pigs)			3	16	0
Canned meats (various kinds)			1	0	0
Canned or bottled fruits (various kinds) ...				22	0
Canned vegetables (various kinds)				8	10½
Slab cake			1	2	0
Pork sausage				22	0
Beef sausage				16	0
Processed cheese				12	14½
Jellied veal				5	0
Butter				6	0
Canned condensed milk				2	0
Total weight ...	72	5	0	1	3

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

The County Medical Officer of Health has kindly supplied the following details :—

A total of 46 samples was obtained, made up of 20 samples of milk and 26 samples of other commodities.

With the exception of one sample of milk all proved genuine. Appropriate action was taken in respect of this deficient sample.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933 and 1951

Licences to slaughter animals have been issued to seven slaughter-men under the above Acts.

MILK AND DAIRIES ADMINISTRATION

The following statistics give some idea of the milk supply of the district at 31st December.

Milk Producers in the district	21
including Tuberculin Tested Producers	2
including Producer-Retailers	8
including Producer-Wholesalers	13

Milk Producers outside the district retailing in the district 5

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949—

Number of Dairies on Register	1
Number of Milk Distributors on register	20

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949—

Dealers' Licences issued—Tuberculin Tested Milk	1
Supplementary Licences issued—Tuberculin Tested Milk	2

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949—

Dealers' Licences issued — Pasteurised Milk	4
Dealers' Licences issued — Sterilised Milk	18
Supplementary Licences issued—Pasteurised Milk	2
Supplementary Licences issued—Sterilised Milk	2

Thirty-five inspections of milk distributors' premises and vehicles were carried out during the year and time spent on advisory work in connection with clean and safe milk distribution.

The majority of the population of Standish now consume milk in designated form (Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised or Sterilised) brought to them in sealed bottles in a hygienic manner.

It is good that this is so, for such milk is clean and safe to consume by people of all ages.

This situation has largely developed since October, 1949, consequent upon the operation and enforcement of Milk and Dairies legislation then introduced.

The time will come when bottled designated milk will be consumed by all and the sale of loose undesignated milk will no longer be practised.

Milk Sampling:—

During the year 46 samples of milk were taken for the biological test. Two samples were found to contain *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, and, as a result, one cow was removed and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, and one cow was otherwise removed from the affected herd and slaughtered.

Thirty-six samples of milk were submitted to the Methylene Blue test of which 25 were satisfactory and 11 unsatisfactory.

Two samples of Pasteurised milk were submitted to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests with satisfactory results.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The refuse collection staff consists of eight full-time employees, including the foreman.

As far as possible refuse was collected at weekly intervals, using the "Dennis" 10 cubic yard and "Scammel" 6 cubic yard side-loading vehicles. Pail closets were emptied weekly.

With few exceptions no charge was made for the removal of trade refuse although shops and business premises in the district had a collection twice a week. It is only correct to point out that much of the trade refuse removed is salvaged and sold and at the present time the revenue so obtained is greater than that which would accrue from trade refuse charges.

Subject to the terms of a legal agreement between the Council and Mr. S. G. Walton, the use of disused sand pits at Langtree Hall Farm, Standish, for the purpose of refuse disposal by controlled tipping was commenced early in the year. This site has proved to be satisfactory for the purpose and no complaints have been received. It is anticipated that this present site will provide disposal capacity for several years.

Those of the disused pit shafts which have been filled with refuse are regularly inspected and topped up as subsidence takes place.

Disposal of refuse at Standish-Lower-Ground was by controlled tipping.

Again some improvements to accommodation were carried out at Grove Lane and it is hoped that each year will mark progress in this direction.

As a result of the legal controversy in respect of the responsibility as between owner and occupier of premises for the provision and renewal of dustbins, the Council, following the consideration of a lengthy report, very prudently decided to adopt and operate a dustbin provision and ownership scheme with effect from the 1st April, 1951, at the estimated cost of one penny rate such service to be borne by the General Rate Fund. During its first year the scheme has worked well and kept within the limit of authorised expenditure for this service as the following particulars shew.

Dustbin Provision Scheme

Financial Year 1/4/1951 to 31/3/1952

<i>Dustbin Receipts</i>	<i>Dustbin Issues</i>
	<i>Dustbin Provision Scheme</i>
	140 dustbins £155 9 2
	<i>New Housing (Capital A/c.)</i>
	30 Dustbins £31 19 7
	<hr/>
	£187 8 9
	<i>In Stock in Stores</i>
	206 dustbins £303 17 0
	<hr/>
376 dustbins £491 5 9	£491 5 9
	<hr/>

Salvage was collected at the same time as the refuse and kept separately for baling and subsequent despatch to the board mills. The demand for waste paper at very high prices held good throughout the year and every opportunity to increase the output of waste paper was used in order to help the National recovery and at the same time help ourselves locally. The increased income, inter alia, enabled the Council to purchase and instal an electrically operated baling press at Grove Lane Depot which has proved to be an indispensable machine. The bonus to workmen was increased from 10 to 20 per cent. of all income from the sale of salvage as an incentive to increased collections.

The income from the sale of salvage during the year was:—

Waste Paper ...	66 tons 18 cwts.	1 qtr.	...	£1,032 1 6
Rags and Scrap	4 tons 3 cwts.	0 qtrs.	...	£78 19 3
Totals ...	71 tons 1 cwt.	1 qtr.	...	£1,111 0 9

The cleansing of non-County roads is carried out under the direction and supervision of the Surveyor.

